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A Card From Colonel C. W. Dudley.

Messrs. Editors:—You mistake me

entirely in your remarks at the head of

an extract from the *Marlboro' Times*, wherein

you seem to assign as a reason for my

warring with the Republican party in this

State no longer, that it is "the strongest

party." So far as this is calculated to

produce the impression that my course in the

future will be influenced in the slightest

degree by such a consideration as that, I beg to

be allowed to disclaim, and in order to put

myself right with those who have read the

brief sketch of my remarks in the public

meeting at Bennettsville, on the 19th ultimo,

respectfully ask the use of your columns

to set forth the true reasons which caused

those remarks to be made. I shall be happy

if my fellow-citizens will feel the force of

them, and all, determine to unite with me

in an honest endeavor to do something for

our unhappy State in the only practicable

manner which remains at our disposal.

Adversity has been teaching its cruel

lesson since the surrender at Appomattox,

in vain. Had those who have influenced

public opinion in this State, fully realized

the situation, the people would have been

spared the tortures they have since incurred.

It would have been sheer mercy to have

told them plainly that from the time of the

surrender a defeated people had no right to

dictate terms, but were compelled to accept

such as were made the conditions of peace,

and accept them in honest hearts, intending

to observe them in letter and in spirit. It

must be admitted that our conquerors were

generous—not a shout from a victorious

soldier insulted the misfortunes of a brave

but unfortunate army, and when the din of

war was over, these conquerors liberally

contributed from their own private resources,

to furnish the Southern people with food

necessary to sustain the lives of themselves

and their families.

Language is too poor to commend such

unanimity in suitable terms, but it did not

evoke that spirit of kindness which ought

to have been the natural sequence. Human

nature could not suppress in the public

heart the bitterness of defeat, and it exhib-

ited itself too plainly to establish that

confidence in the Northern mind, which was

necessary to a reconstruction that would

have been acceptable at the South. When

their missionaries were sent to instruct

the colored people, they were called "school

masters," and were treated with scorn and

contempt, as aiders and abettors of negro

equality, when in fact their mission was

not only heroic in its nature, but absolutely

necessary to promote the peace and har-

mony of the new element introduced into

political life, and whose minds had to be

trained to make them useful, or even toler-

able, in their new relations to the whites.

Ministers of the gospel fared no better,

and Northern gentlemen visiting the South

with the view of consulting its advantages

for locations of business, saw too plainly

that they were only endured, and that real

cordiality was out of the question. The

wives of those who had followed their

husbands here were shut up in the cold

prisons of their own solitary dwellings,

and scarcely a friendly hand was held

out to them, inviting them to the cheerful

hospitalities of a Southern fire-side.

Now all this could but lead to the plain

conclusion that a deeply-rooted hostility

had yet to be overcome before a proper

national feeling could be restored. The

elections in 1865 demonstrated that

military generals who had been conspic-

uous in the army fighting against the

Union, were still the choice of the people,

to represent yet longer the vitality of the

spirit of rebellion.

Now, these things are only referred

to as historic facts; and not with the view

of attaching blame to the human heart,

for being governed by its own instincts.

It was but natural that these feelings

should have existed, and it was but nat-

ural that they should have produced the

conviction that, unless those who had

thus led public opinion in South Carolina

would be disposed from their positions of

authority, there was no hope for that

re-union of the States, so necessary for

the life of the nation. Hence the XIV

Amendment was devised, so that this

object being effected, no violence would

be done to the use of the elective fran-

chise, as it had previously existed. But

this really wild propo-

sition was rejected, by a vote that was

unanimous, save one solitary brave vote,

that dared express itself to public opinion

for the welfare of the State.

Reconstruction then had to be effected

in some other way, and as there was

an element in the population that would

not hesitate to accept the terms proposed

by Congress, the negro was called in as

the last resort, and by his vote South

Carolina was once more introduced into

the family of States. If there are any

who date their misfortunes from this

event, they will not fail to see that it

was brought about by the counsels of

leaders whom they had so long and so

faithfully followed.

The effort since then has been to re-

gain the lost ground. The struggles have

been fierce, and defeat has ominously

hovered over them all. Until the elections

of 1870 the public mind did not despair

of attaining some form of government

which would restore the white man to his

supremacy. But it was then discovered

that it was in vain to expect any co-operation

from the colored vote, without a full and

honest concession of all their rights under

the reconstruction laws, and for the first

time since the war, the vote of the white

people was cast in favor of the terms

proposed by Congress. The platform of

the Reform party was all that any honest

Republican should ask, for it was iden-

tical with their own. But the colored

people were easily persuaded by artful

intriguers that the whites should not be

trusted, and the olive branch held out

to them was rudely rejected. They were

made to doubt the sincerity of their

former owners, and cast an indignant

vote against them. Had they known the

real facts of the case they would have

done otherwise, for by this time all

reflecting men had despaired of raising

themselves by the Democratic rope any

longer, and with muscles paralyzed by

continual tension, had concluded to let

it go, and unite honestly with all those

of every party who had the real welfare

of the State at heart, in purifying the

abuses of the Government.

Since then, the Tax-payers Convention

has been held, and the people were

greatly encouraged to believe that much

good would be the result. Minority

representation seemed to have been

secured, and the State had a cheering

prospect of relief from that measure

alone. But the illusion has been dis-

pelled, and the people now find them-

selves absolutely without any hope of

reform, by any measures to be taken in

the line of operations hitherto pursued.

The real difficulty is, that the vote of

the colored people has in every instance

been given against us. The reason of

this is, that the white people have re-

fused to attend their meetings, or show

any sympathy for them in the only way

that could reach their understandings.

They have heard no voice of friendly

counsel from those who have asked their

confidence. No one has mingled with

them, except strangers, who were

ostensibly defending their rights since

the war, which they pretended they had

fought for whilst it was pending. Will

any one be surprised now that the

colored people, under such circumstances,

would be forced to trust these strangers,

who had sided to give them their rights,

in preference to their former masters,

from whom those rights had been taken?

They were obliged, for obvious reasons,

to place upon one or the other, and

as they might prefer their former

owners, they dared not trust them,

when they kept themselves entirely

aloof from their public meetings, and

thereby showed signs of dissatisfaction

with the liberty they were enjoying as

free and independent citizens of a com-

mon country.

They had heard much said against

the Republican party, to which they all